WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interface method for viewing and selecting among a variety of currently available commercial broadcasts comprising the steps of:

determining an association of each said commercial broadcast with a program category; and

within a single viewing screen, simultaneously presenting video broadcast information directly from each of said commercial broadcasts, including:

(1) generating reduced-scale presentations of each of said commercial broadcasts, said reduced-scale presentations being based on said video broadcast information; and

(2) dynamically clustering said reduced-scale presentations in correspondence with said program categories, including displaying a plurality of clusters of said reduced-scale presentations in which each said cluster includes said reduced-scale presentations for all of said commercial broadcasts associated with said program category that corresponds to said cluster;

thereby utilizing said viewing screen to display each said cluster as a totality of said commercial broadcasts that are currently available within said program category that corresponds to said cluster.

2. The interface method of claim 1 wherein said step of dynamically clustering includes varying a number of said reduced-scale presentations in said clusters as a function of changes in said commercial broadcasts.

3. The interface method of claim 2 wherein said commercial broadcasts are television broadcasts carried via television channels, said step of determining associations including monitoring reception of said television channels at a location of said viewing screen to detect tag information that is specific to current programs available via said television channels.

4. The interface method of claim 1 further comprising a step of enabling a user to initiate a genre-dividing mode in which at least one said cluster is split into separate sub-clusters on a basis of genres.

1   5. The interface method of claim 4 wherein said step of enabling said user

2   includes providing cluster splitting into said sub-clusters on the basis of

3   different sports and on the basis of different movie genres.

1   6. The interface method of claim 1 wherein said step of presenting said video

2   broadcast information includes overlapping said reduced-scale presentations

3   within at least one said cluster, said interface method further comprising steps

4   of:

5   (1) enabling a user to select which said reduced-scale

6   presentation in said at least one cluster has the appearance of being the

7   foremost reduced-scale presentation; and

8   (2) enabling said user to select any said reduced-scale

9   presentation in any said cluster for viewing in a full-screen mode of operation.

1   7. The interface method of claim 6 further comprising steps of:

2   maintaining historical information regarding user selections; and

3   arranging said clusters and arranging said reduced-scale

4   presentations within said clusters as a function of said historical information.

1   8. The interface method of claim 6 further comprising a step of cycling an

2   arrangement of said overlapping reduced-scale presentations in said at least

3   one cluster such that each said overlapping reduced-scale presentation is

4   periodically said foremost reduced-scale presentation.

1   9. The interface method of claim 1 wherein said step of generating said

2   reduced-scale presentations includes displaying incoming television programs

3   in real time, such that said reduced-scale presentations are dynamic.

1   10. The interface method of claim 9 wherein said step of generating includes

2   filtering television commercials, such that said reduced-scale presentations

3   are static during said television commercials.

1   11. An interface method for viewing and selecting among a variety of
2   television channels comprising the steps of:
3   receiving program transmissions via said television channels;
4   recurringly identifying a program category for each said
5   television channel on a basis of a currently available program being broadcast
6   via said television channel;
7   generating reduced-scale presentations of each said currently
8   available program from video signals of said currently available program;
9   displaying each said presentation on a single screen, including
10   grouping said presentations on a basis of said program categories, thereby
11   displaying a number of groups that corresponds to the number of program
12   categories, with each well populated group having overlapping presentations;
13   enabling a viewer to remotely control browsing through said
14   groups and browsing among said presentations within a specific group; and
15   enabling said viewer to select a particular said presentation for
16   full-screen viewing of the program from which said particular presentation was
17   generated.

1   12. The interface method of claim 11 further comprising a step of arranging
2   said groups and said presentations within said groups as a function of
3   historical information that is representative of prior selections by said viewer.

1   13. The interface method of claim 11 further comprising a step of enabling
2   said viewer to selectively increase or decrease said number of groups by
3   increasing or decreasing said number of program categories.

1   14. The interface method of claim 13 wherein said step of enabling increases
2   includes providing cluster splitting according to genres and includes merging
3   previously split clusters.

1   15. A system for viewing and selecting among a variety of currently available
2   commercial broadcasts comprising:
3   a detector configured to identify each said commercial
4   broadcast with a program category;
5   a video processor connected to receive said commercial
6   broadcasts and configured to output reduced-scale presentations of said
7   commercial broadcasts, said reduced-scale presentations being video
8   broadcast information; and
9   a viewing screen cooperative with said detector and said video
10   processor to display said reduced-scale presentations in clusters that have a
11   one-to-one correspondence with said program categories, with all of said
12   commercial broadcasts that are identified with one of said program categories
13   being simultaneously displayed.

1   16. The system of claim 15 wherein said video processor is configured to
2   realign said reduced-scale presentations in response to detection by said
3   detector of a change in a commercial broadcast from a first program category
4   to a second program category.

1   17. The system of claim 15 wherein said video processor is configured to
2   continuously update said video broadcast information relevant to each said
3   reduced-scale presentation.

1   18. The system of claim 17 further comprising a commercial filter enabled to
2   detect commercials and to inhibit said continuous updating during commercial
3   times.

1   19. The system of claim 15 further comprising memory connected to store
2   historical information indicative of selections of said commercial broadcasts
3   by a viewer, said memory being accessed by said video processor to control
4   arrangement of said clusters and said reduced-scale presentations within said
5   clusters as a function of said historical information.